



CITY OF STOCKTON

## THE WEEK THAT WAS

Vol. 3 / No. 7

A Report from the City Manager

February 14, 2003

### CENTRAL BUILDING MAINTENANCE UPDATE

The **City Hall Security Station** is winding down. The roll up security door has been reinstalled and adjusted. The walk through door is now operational and carpet will put a finishing touch on the project. Carpet installation was scheduled last weekend but had to be rescheduled for February 15 in order to have the doors cut prior to installation. Now that the roll up door is installed we will build an enclosure around the housing to make it better match the other woodwork.

The modifications to the counter at the **Permit Center** were completed over the weekend. CBM staff removed the electrical and the existing counter and Union Planing Mill came in over the weekend to install the new counter. We now need to patch walls and carpet.

A new phone line was installed at the **Civic Auditorium** for the upcoming Police and Fire Olympics. There is still more to do but we are operational at this time.

CBM electricians continue to work on replacing old inefficient lamps and ballast with

new more energy efficient fixtures. This week the work took place at the **City Hall Annex and Fire Company 2**. We also installed additional lighting on the exterior of the **Animal Shelter** to provide better lighting and improve safety. CBM electricians also installed new network cabling at the **Oak Park Senior Center**.

CBM staff are currently evaluating the chiller at **City Hall**. It appears the chiller is failing and may need to be replaced sooner than expected.

Working with contractors we had a fence installed at the old **Fire Station 8** in order to provide secure storage for Parks & Recreation materials.

At the request of the Manager's Office CBM Staff delivered, set up and monitored the sound system for the **Airport Way Community Meeting** held at the fairgrounds. Jimmy Lobosco got a nice thank you from Christine Tien for his work at the event. (AS-CBM)

### FRANCHISE TAX BOARD PROGRAM

The Administrative Services Department received approval in 1998 to participate in the State Controller's Office/ Franchise Tax Board Inter-agency Intercept Collections program. Their function is to

intercept tax refunds and/or California State Lottery prizes of Californians who owe delinquent amounts to state and local agencies. Once intercepted, the refunds and lottery prizes are redirected to the agencies to which the debts are owed. The Controller's office charges between \$.18 and \$.32 per account submitted for participation.

This is the 5<sup>th</sup> year that the Collection Section of the Finance Division has participated in submitting accounts to the State for interception. In the past, an external database was used to send demand letters. That process was very tedious and labor intensive. Thanks to our IT staff, the process has now been automated. For the 2003 tax year the City of Stockton submitted 5,006 accounts with a value of \$1,044,260.47. Under this program, the State has intercepted on the City's behalf almost \$90,000, to date. (AS-Revenue Services)

### IT UPDATE

Information Technology (IT) for the month of January, 2003 received and logged a combined total of 925 support calls and service requests. In this same period, a combined total of 927 support calls and

service requests were completed. This is an increase in volume of 29.37% over December 2002.

Information Technology is currently working with Delta Wireless, Inc. on the electrical connection of the Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) unit at the San Joaquin County Courthouse. The Courthouse is one of the City's Public Safety two-way radio communications systems radio sites.

Information Technology is also working with Liebert Global Systems on the batteries for the UPS at the Fire Department's Emergency Communications/Dispatching Center. (AS-IT)

#### **SALE OF SURPLUS PROPERTY**

This information is provided to inform the City Council as outlined in Chapter 3, Section 3-030, Part IV of the May 19, 1988, revision of the Stockton Municipal Code. The Purchasing Division sold the following surplus property. Through Roger Ernst & Associates Auctioneers, Inc. of Modesto, California, the City sold ten (10) surplus vehicles for SEVEN THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED THIRTY EIGHT DOLLARS (\$7,838.00). (AS)

#### **MARCH LANE UNDER-PASSES AT THE UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD**

Public Works was thrilled to learn this week that the March Lane Underpasses at the Union Pacific Railroads has won an American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Outstanding Civil Engineering Project Award. The project, managed by Public Works engineer Ray Deyto, was substantially completed in October of 2002. The project was designed by HDR Engineering, and constructed by Teichert Construction. Parsons Brinckerhoff provided

the construction management services. The award will be presented at the Engineers Week Banquet in Sacramento on February 22, 2003. (PW)

#### **AKSLAND AVENUE/ TRINITY PARKWAY EXTENSION PROJECT**

The United States Coast Guard (USCG) has finally responded to our bridge permit inquiry regarding the bridge vertical clearance requirement. The proposed bridge crossing Bear Creek is required to have a clearance of 17.7 feet above the mean high water elevation. This clearance requirement matches the vertical clearance provided by the Interstate Highway 5 bridge over Bear Creek. The Project Team has started environmental studies and is preparing the environmental document which will then be presented to the City Council for review and approval. (PW)

#### **EIGHT-MILE ROAD/I-5 INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

On Thursday, February 6, a public artist was selected by the seven-member artist selection panel to receive the public art commission for the project. Luz Lua-Foster's art proposal/concept was favored by the majority of the panel members. Councilmember Steve Bestolarides served in the selection panel as the community representative. This was a local limited artist competition facilitated by Public Art Manager Rebekah Burr-Siegel. Of the seven local artists invited, five submitted their art proposals. Miss Foster's art concept will be presented to the project development team and will be incorporated in the design of the tie-back walls underneath the I-5 bridge structure. (PW)

#### **CHASE DEMOLITION- LAST BUILDING TESTED FOR ASBESTOS (FINAL BUILDING TO BE ADDED TO CHASE BLOCK DEMOLITION)**

Samples have been taken from the final building on the former Chase properties to be analyzed for asbestos. This building was recently acquired by Housing and Redevelopment and has been added to the Chase block demolition project. Sampling was performed by Condor who previously performed the hazardous materials assessment of the other buildings on the property. Test results are expected to be returned in one week at which time Condor will prepare a hazardous materials removal workplan detailing steps to be taken prior to and during demolition. The workplan is expected in three weeks. (PW)

#### **STATE FINDS CITY AB 939-COMPLIANT FOR 2000**

On Tuesday, February 11, the California Integrated Waste Management Board approved a City of Stockton waste reduction and recycling rate of 47% for 2000. The rate falls short of the State-mandated 50% but the Board declared the City AB 939-compliant for 2000 based on a "good faith effort" to implement AB 939 programs.

The State must find the City in compliance with AB 939 every year. If not, the City runs the risk of State-imposed fines of up to \$10,000/day.

Staff submitted a 56% recycling rate for 2000 but a Board staff audit reduced it to 47%. Staff argued to the Board, verbally and in writing, that the Board staff-recommended 47% rate was incorrect. Staff told the Board that the City intended to submit evidence showing a

50% or higher rate for 2000. (PW)

#### **CHARTER WAY BEAUTIFICATION PHASE 2**

Contractor, Rick Armstrong Construction, substantially completed installation of the concrete median curb, and continues to install the concrete block pavers in the median islands. The artist anticipates the art sculpture will be completed and ready for installation by mid March. In preparation, the sculpture foundations have been constructed, and the contractor anticipates installing the sculpture lighting within the next few weeks. Final completion is anticipated by spring 2003.(PW)

#### **LUFT QUARTERLY MONITORING REPORTS- VAN BUSKIRK AND FIRE STATION #2**

Quarterly reports have been received for sites formerly containing leaking underground fuel tanks at Van Buskirk Golf Course and Fire Station #2. There is no longer any gasoline in the groundwater at Van Buskirk but a small quantity of MTBE, a gasoline additive, is still present. The latest tests indicate that the MTBE has migrated about 80 feet since the last tests. Further quarterly monitoring will probably be required to define the extent of the migration. The San Joaquin County Public Health Services/ Env. Health Department will determine whether added monitoring will be necessary.

The latest tests at Fire Station #2 include samples from seven wells. Only one well, near the center of the old tank location, shows a continuing presence of gasoline at a concentration of 4.5 mg/L. Three wells indicate the continuing presence of MTBE and related compounds. Although the concentrations have not signifi-

cantly declined in the last quarter, there has been no migration. We are currently looking into conversion of the air sparging system to an ozone-based system to improve remediation effectiveness. (PW)

#### **UPDATED DOWNTOWN STOCKTON PROJECTS MAP**

A new, updated version of the Downtown Stockton Projects Map is now available through the Housing and Redevelopment Department. Color copies are available in two sizes: 11 x 17 and 30 x 40 (poster size). Other sizes are available upon request. Please e-mail your request for copies of the updated map to Melissa Price. If you are requesting large quantities or a special size, please allow at least 2 days to process your request. (HRD)

#### **NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES MONITORING**

The following is an update for monitored areas within the Gateway District:

##### **Downtown-Commercial Area**

The owner of the old Star Fish Market in the 300 block of South El Dorado Street has removed the junk and debris from the property and will begin exterior improvements on the property soon. An application for the Facade Improvement Program has been approved.

A property owner of a building in the 500 block of East Weber Avenue, previously cited for exterior property maintenance issues, has been assessed an inspection fee for failing to proceed with the application requirements of the Facade Improvement Program or make an effort to abate the violations.

The owner of a property in the 800 block of East Main Street was issued an inspection fee for overflowing garbage dumpsters. Upon the re-inspection, the dumpsters had been emptied and compliance obtained.

##### **Magnolia/Midtown Area**

Code Enforcement staff responded to a call from an elderly woman complaining of a cockroach and mice infestation inside her apartment in the 300 block of East Flora Street. The tenant had refused to cooperate with the property manager who agreed to provide pest control measures to solve the alleged problem. Upon inspecting the apartment, the Code Enforcement Officer did not find evidence of any pests.

The owners of a vacant house in the 1000 block of North Sutter Street were issued another fine for failing to comply with previous citations stemming from overall neglect on the property. The house has been vacant for a number of years and is an eyesore to the neighborhood because of its peeling paint, deteriorated roof, broken windows, and lack of yard maintenance.

An apartment building in the 500 block of East Oak Street was recently purchased and a chronic plumbing problem was immediately corrected by the new property owner by replacing a deteriorated sewer line. In addition, other voluntary improvements are being made to the building, which will eventually be occupied by the owner.

Several rooms were inspected at a property in the 300 block of North California Street because of plumbing leaks inside walls and ceilings. As a result of the dampness in the rooms, mold has been a reoccurring problem. The property owner has been cited to eliminate the water leaks and to replace all damaged materials.

##### **Pixie Drive**

The owners of properties previously cited on Perry Avenue have complied by

removing junk and debris from the properties and discontinuing to park vehicles on the yard areas. Painting and landscaping will be done when the weather is more favorable. While in the area, staff inquired for building permits with a roofing contractor who was seen installing new roofs on a couple of buildings in Pixie Court B. Permits had been obtained and were not onsite as required.

All of the violations cited by Neighborhood Services at a property in the 2800 block of Pixie Drive have been corrected. The property owner, who also owns other properties in this neighborhood, was told of proactive inspections planned by the Code Enforcement Officers in this area. (HRD)

#### **BOATING INSTRUCTION & SAFETY CENTER**

CSUS - Stockton campus, has decided not to pursue the development of a Boating Instruction & Safety Center (BISC) in cooperation with the City. The City offered land on or adjacent to the waterfront to CSUS for the purposes of building a BISC for student and community boating and water safety classes. The full cost of a BISC can be paid out of grant monies available from the Department of Boating and Waterways, but only to qualified educational institutions. The City believed that there was a significant opportunity for the University to expand their regular program offerings at minimal cost. However, CSUS has determined that programming and budget constraints prohibit them from pursuing this opportunity. (HRD)

#### **VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE (VITA) KICK-OFF**

The non-profit agency Community Partnerships for

Families of San Joaquin invited staff from the Housing Division and Neighborhood Services to participate in the kickoff of their program called Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA).

This program is being offered in its neighborhood centers, West Lane Oaks and Coalition United for Families (CUFF) located on Airport Way. The HRD staff participated in the program on Saturday, February 8, 2003, and will also be present during the presentation held at the West Lane Oaks office on February 13, 2003.

The VITA program provides information about financial assistance and existing homebuyer assistance programs to encourage home ownership. Access to personal finance and credit counseling was also offered by the Consumer Credit Counseling Office, and the San Joaquin Housing Authority was also present at the Saturday event.

The individuals or families who attended the Saturday event also registered for free classes on tax preparation and assistance in filing of their income tax returns.

Persons who attended the event were able to speak to the various participating agencies, and ask questions about code enforcement and the various housing programs offered by the Housing and Redevelopment Department. Translations of the City of Stockton programs were also available in Spanish, Hmong, Cambodian and Vietnamese. (HRD)

#### **MONITORING VISIT – AFRICAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Housing staff conducted an on-site monitoring visit to African American Chamber of Commerce on January 16, 2003. The purpose of the monitoring visit was to examine the organization's records and review contractual obligations

under the City's 2001-2002 CDBG Agreement with the Chamber for the operation of their Downtown Employment and Career Center Program.

The monitoring consisted of reviewing Board of Director minutes, financial records, policies and procedures, billing procedures for the draw of City CDBG funds, and a sampling of case files for clients served.

Through interviews with African American Chamber of Commerce staff and review of files pertaining to the Downtown Employment and Career Center, it was determined that the career center has not been in operation since December 2002. Loss of counseling staff, loss of SUSD instructors for the GED preparation classes, and lack of adequate facilities to house the center were all contributing factors to staff's determination. Chamber staff was notified in writing that funding will be suspended until the program can be restructured and is again operational. Housing staff will be available to the Chamber to offer technical assistance and monitor the program to ensure full compliance with federal funding guidelines prior to approving any future draw requests. (HRD)

#### **INSPECTIONS**

In response to a referral from the Neighborhood Services Division for an emergency repair at a home of a 90-year-old homeowner, Housing staff inspected the house located at 648 Oak Street. The elderly owner/occupant requires a new roof covering along with repairing rot damage to the roof framing members. The Senior Housing Rehabilitation Counselor has requested bids for this project. Upon receipt of acceptable bids, the homeowner will receive

an emergency grant to complete the required repairs.

Staff also performed an inspection of a dwelling located at 1347 Pelem Court, under the Single-Family Rehabilitation Program, to determine the scope of work required. The subject home has a failing foundation, no heat and severe rot damage.

The construction of the child care center for the Emerald Pointe Project Area located at 9537 Kelley Drive has begun with the installation of the underground plumbing being installed this week. A CDBG loan in the amount of \$617,000 was approved by the City Council on November 26, 2002. (HRD)

#### **SENIOR SERVICES AGENCY**

Housing Staff facilitated a pre-bid meeting with representatives from the Senior Services Agency on January 31, 2003. The purpose of the pre-bid meeting is to inform the sub-recipient of the requirements for a federally funded project, including prevailing wage, equal employment opportunity, disadvantaged business enterprises and good faith documentation. The Senior Services Agency will be replacing a gas steam generator and freezer for their Meals on Wheels Program with the City of Stockton's 2002-2003 CDBG allocation of \$58,326 approved by the City Council in April 2002. The replacement of the steam generator and the freezer are key to the Meals on Wheels Program's ability to provide nutritious meals to seniors on a daily basis throughout San Joaquin County.

The Senior Service Agency has now begun the process of soliciting bids for this project. Staff simultaneously has begun preparing loan documents which will be

brought to Council for final approval this Spring. (HRD)

#### **POLICE DEPARTMENT CALLS/INCIDENTS**

During the period February 6-12, the Stockton Police Department handled 6,109 calls for service, incidents, and/or reports. (POL)

#### **COMMUNITY HEALTH ACTION TEAM (CHAT)**

Preliminary inspections of 409, 411, and 425 East Rose, as well as of 337 East Magnolia, have been completed. Notices and Orders to Repair are being prepared. Directed Patrol Officers, accompanying CHAT personnel, arrested a male tenant of 337 East Magnolia on a felony warrant. (POL)

#### **GANG STREET ENFORCEMENT TEAM**

Activities of the Gang Street Enforcement Team (GSET) during the period February 4-11, included the following:

- Field Interviews - 181
- Felony Arrests - 5
- Misdemeanor Arrests - 5
- Felony Warrant Arrests - 6
- Misdemeanor Warrant Arrests - 6
- Traffic Citations Issued - 14
- Vehicles Impounded - 5
- Firearms Confiscated - 2 (.22 caliber rifle with high-capacity magazine, and .380 auto handgun; 369 guns confiscated since the inception of GSET and the VCSTF)
- Parole Searches - 1
- Probation Searches - 19
- Narcotics Confiscated - 18.95 Grams Methamphetamine

(POL)

#### **TRUANCY**

During the week of February 3-7, 25 juveniles were processed for truancy. Year to date, 686 students have been processed for truancy, with 174 repeat offenders. Statistics reflect that overall truancy has decreased by approximately 17% com-

pared to the same time period last year. (POL)

#### **ROBBERY**

On February 6, two women (mother and daughter) walked out of Smart Foods in Quail Lakes Shopping Center without paying for approximately \$100 worth of groceries. They were loading the groceries into their car when a store employee ordered them back into the store. One suspect jumped into the driver's seat and began backing up, knocking down the employee and the second suspect. When other employees arrived, both suspects gave up and were subsequently arrested. (POL)

#### **METH LAB**

On February 7, Officers checking out suspicious activity at a small commercial business in the 4000 block of Coronado located an operational methamphetamine lab inside the building. One ounce of meth and a hunting rifle were recovered from the building, and 2.0 grams of meth was located in a vehicle parked outside the business. Four suspects were arrested. (POL)

#### **SHOOTING**

On February 6, at approximately 7:40 p.m., while four men were standing in front of a home in the 6000 block of Gettysburg visiting a female friend, a group of three males dressed in red started to approach them. The female suggested her friends leave because the approaching subjects were gang members. As they were running to their pickup (which turned out to be stolen from San Rafael, California) and attempting to drive away, the second group of subjects fired multiple gunshots, striking the 18-year-old driver in the back of his head. The victim drove for several blocks before crashing into a light post, stop sign, and fire

hydrant. He was hospitalized for the gunshot wound, that was felt to be non-life threatening; however, he passed away the following day. Homicide Detectives are investigating the case. (POL)

### **STOCKTON FIRES**

On Thursday, February 6, there was a structure fire in a two-story, town home at 517 Cabana Way. The fire originated in the first floor bedroom. The cause of the fire is currently under investigation. Damage is estimated at approximately \$40,000 to the structure and \$15,000 to the contents.

On Friday, February 7, there was a structure fire in a single-story, multi-family residence at 1045 S. Sinclair Avenue. The fire appears to have started from smoking materials. One patient was transported with second and third degree burns to 80% of his body. A second patient was transported for smoke inhalation. Damage is estimated at approximately \$10,000 to the structure and \$2,000 to the contents.

On Sunday, February 9, there was an oil spill from a ship at the Port of Stockton, 1901 Harbor Avenue. Fire crews made proper notifications (SJC OES, Environmental Health, Coast Guard and Fish and Game) and worked with Port Police and other agencies to contain the spill. Fire crews deployed approximately 41 soft oil booms (large sponges) for containment.

On Tuesday, February 11, there was a structure fire in a two-story, single-family residence at 9519 Brisbane Place. The fire originated in the kitchen, where the resident had put a burning pan into the sink. The cabinets caught fire and extended to the attic. No injuries were reported. Stockton Fire

Department Ladies Auxiliary and Red Cross were notified to assist the residents. Damage is estimated at approximately \$20,000 to the structure and \$10,000 to the contents.

On Wednesday, February 12, there was a structure fire at American Moulding & Millwork Company at 2801 N. West Lane. Employees stated that at the time the fire started a vehicle was being stolen. The fire originated and was confined to a pile of boxes and lumber due to the sprinkler system activating. Damage is estimated at approximately \$2,000 to the contents and no structural damage reported.

On Wednesday, February 12, there was a structure fire in a single-story, single-family residence at 3413 Sierra Madre Avenue. Fire crews arrived on scene to find a smoking toaster oven. They removed it from the residence and cleared the smoke. Damage is estimated at approximately \$30 for the toaster oven. (FD)

### **ARSON INVESTIGATIONS**

Sixteen investigations were conducted in the last seven days:

- \* Ten outdoor type fires, five were set intentionally.
- \* Four structure fires, all were determined to be accidental.
- \* Two vehicle fires, both were determined to be accidental.

Dollar loss due to arson this year is \$191,200.

Two separate and unrelated structure fires occurred injuring four people. Two victims were treated for smoke inhalation and released the same day. Two elderly males were transported to UC Davis and are in "critical" condition. Both fires were caused by carelessly discarded smoking material. A working smoke detector was activated in one of the fires. (FD)

### **PUBLIC EDUCATION**

This week fire safety presentations were conducted at the following locations: San Anselmo Head Start (22 participants), St. Joseph's Hospital (50 participants) and Custom Building Products (15 participants). Also, fire station tours were given at Co. 1 (7 participants) and Co. 9 (22 participants). (FD)

### **WEED ABATEMENT**

The list of properties to be declared as a Public Nuisance was submitted to Council and letters were mailed to the property owners. The responses are being received and the information is being entered in the AS 400 database. (FD)

### **COUNCIL FOLLOW-UP – February 4, 2003 MEETING YOUTH PARTICIPATION AT CONFERENCES**

At the February 4, 2003 Council meeting, Councilmember Larry Ruhstaller indicated he had read an article regarding youth participation in a conference in July and inquired into the possibility of members of the Youth Advisory Commission (YAC) attending. The Mayor had mentioned the possibility of obtaining sponsorships to pay for YAC members' attendance.

The article appeared in the February edition of Western Cities and was entitled "Connecting Students with Local Government". It was written by the executive director of the Center for Youth Citizenship (CYC). The CYC is coordinating the "2003 Picture Yourself in Local Government Summer Institute" which runs concurrently with the League of California Cities Executive Forum held in July. This particular conference targets attendance by teachers and encourages local governments to sponsor teachers. The \$1,000 sponsorship per

teacher is the first step to bringing local government education programs to the sponsoring community.

This information has been forwarded to the Youth Advisory Commission. Staff will continue to look for conferences highlighting youth leadership and which will benefit our local youth and projects. When appropriate, the City will solicit sponsorship and seek assistance as needed.

#### **BOYS & GIRLS CLUB COLLABORATION**

After an initial meeting last week, Parks and Recreation Director Johnny Ford and Recreation Superintendent Shane McAfee held a follow-up meeting Wednesday with the Dan Chapman and Sean McCartney of the Boys and Girls Club regarding a cooperative venture for the club to operate the Souza Pool and Sierra Vista gym. Both facilities are facing cutbacks or possible closures due to budget cuts, so the department identified the Boys and Girls Club as a partner to help keep the facilities open and lessen their impact on the city budget. Talks are still in the preliminary stage, but the outlook for a positive partnership looks good. (P & R)

#### **McKINLEY COMMUNITY CENTER ACTIVITIES**

Last week, McKinley Community Center staff ran a doubles Round Robin foosball tournament for youth ages 6-18 in four divisions. There were trophies for the first and second place winners on each division. The Mexican American Nature Lover's Association (MANLA) paid for the awards which were passed out on Saturday after the final games. The majority of participants came from McKinley's indoor soccer league players. This was a great activity for all those

involved; they spent a few hours each day at McKinley doing something they like to do instead of being out unsupervised. McKinley soccer league practices continue on a daily basis and the league games are played every Saturday afternoon. McKinley's basketball league practices also continue daily with league games every Saturday morning.

Recreation for All People (RAP) activities for physically and developmentally disabled people continue at McKinley. Basketball, volleyball, bingo, daily meetings and High Noon Dances are some of the RAP programs.

Teen performers from the Channel Medical Center brought their performance of "Just One Time," to the center to give teens the message of, "don't do it because it takes 'just one time' and if you do it, use protection." This is a 30-minute dramatic presentation in which a female teen gets pregnant by her teen boyfriend who happens to be HIV-positive and she gets infected. The teens go to see a doctor who gives them advice and treatment. (P & R)

#### **STRIBLEY COMMUNITY CENTER PARTY**

Stribley Community Center's Youth Basketball League has ended after a three-month program. League awards will be given out Saturday, February 15. Soccer sign-ups are currently taking place at Stribley and that league will begin next month. There has been a significant increase in participation at Stribley's after school program during the last two weeks. Staff reports about 20 new members during this period. That brings Stribley's average participation to 45-55 kids each day. The Stribley Seniors have made approximately 100 heart centerpieces for the crab feed on Friday, February 14. The hearts will go on sale on Saturday at the Senior Valentines Pancake Breakfast from 8 a.m.

to 12 noon. The hearts will cost \$5 each, though some will be raffled off. (P & R)

#### **INSTRUCTIONAL CLASSES**

Mommy and Me classes end a six-week sessions this week. Music class had 24 toddlers in class this session. KinderArt had 17 students, and there were a total of 94 children in KinderGym. Tai Chi ended on Tuesday night. Clayworks Studio taught wheel-throwing and hand-building to four new students in its four-week series that ends this week. Tutoring by Learning Game Tutors ends its current three-week series with 12 students benefiting from this tutoring program. All of these classes will begin new sessions in the coming weeks. (P & R)

#### **PIXIE WOODS STATUES**

Two members of the Pixie Woods Board of Directors have purchased and donated part of a collection of bronze statues that will be placed at the park prior to its March 22 opening. The statues are lifelike renditions of children at play. The family of Mary Jo Wentz donated a bronze sculpture of two children on a see-saw. Board President Bill Stoermer has donated a sculpture that depicts three children fishing on a log. After the initial individual donations, the board voted to purchase another group of five statues of children playing. The donated bronzes have ranged from \$1,600 each for the group of five, to \$4,000 each for bronzes of two and three children. The board is now soliciting donations to cover the \$15,000 cost of a final bronze which portrays several children playing 'fireman' with a hose on a ladder that could be installed at Pixie Woods near the fire truck and a future climbing wall that will continue a 'fireman' theme. The board has contacted fire and auxiliary representatives and

is now soliciting a public donation. (P & R)

### **ADULT SPORTS**

Adult City Basketball League 3 is in playoffs this week, with teams in five divisions. Championship teams will receive T-shirts instead of team trophies; the shirts are designed to provide visibility for the Parks and Recreation Department. Registration is completed and 21 teams are signed up for the last season which begins February 18. Volleyball League 3 ended on Tuesday. Five teams played and the championship teams received T-shirts. League 4 Volleyball begins with five teams on February 25. Softball registration information was mailed to all current managers. Softball's first registration begins February 24. The goal for the first league, which begins March 17, is to have 161 teams register. Six city-sponsored softball tournaments are scheduled so far this year. UOP intern Heather Kottmeier is coordinating the city tournaments. Kottmeier is a junior working on a sports management degree; she will be with the Parks and Recreation Department for 12 weeks. She is originally from Los Gatos and plays on the UOP's Field Hockey Team. Fifty-four weekend tournaments have been scheduled for play on city diamonds for 2003. (P & R)

### **YOUTH SPORTS**

Three basketball leagues are in their fourth week of eight. One hundred children are playing at Great Valley School in Weston Ranch. Nearly 200 children are playing in the league being played at Seifert and Bear Creek High School. Twenty teams from middle schools and community centers are playing in a league for middle school children, ages 12-14. Reservation applications that have been submitted for city

ball fields have been considered and confirmations are being mailed this week. (P & R)

### **ARTS COMMISSION RETREAT AND SPECIAL MEETING**

Members of the Stockton Arts Commission and staff met over the last holiday weekend in two sessions, a day-long Retreat at the Philomathean Club and an afternoon Special Meeting on the Monday holiday. In its facilitated Retreat, members heard from Parks & Recreation Department Director Johnny Ford, discussed staffing, projects and programs, crafted a new mission statement, and charted its future as more of an arts services agency. At the Monday meeting, commissioners made revisions to the draft Arts Master Plan and draft granting guidelines for the City Endowment for the Arts, both of which will go to the City Council for approval in March or April. (P & R)

### **STOCKTON BEAUTIFUL ROSE GARDEN**

Stockton Beautiful is working with City staff and the Haggin Museum to have a rose garden installed on the north side of the Museum in Victory Park. The project will be installed by the Stockton Beautiful organization and funded by donations. Construction is expected to begin by late fall of this year. (P & R)

### **FONG PARK CONSTRUCTION**

The construction of Fong park should begin in early March. The site is located in the Blossom Ranch subdivision near the future extensions of March Lane and Holman Road. Council awarded a contract to Goodland Landscape on February 11th for the construction of the first 5 acres of this future seven acre park site. Maintenance will be provided for the the City Consolidated Landscape Maintenance District. Park amenities will include a small group picnic area,

play structures and two 1/2 basketball courts. (P & R)

### **SHROPSHIRE PARK**

Construction is nearing completion for the Ernie Shropshire 5.7 acre park site located off of Industrial Way and Pock Lane. The park will be opened sometime in the spring. Maintenance is provided by the City Consolidated Landscape Maintenance District. Park improvements include a tennis court, basket ball court and a children's play lot with small shade arbors. (P & R)

### **PIXIE WOODS PLAY AREA**

The grant-funded Pixie Woods Cecily G. play area in Louis Park/Pixie Woods is nearing its completion and will be open for public use when the park opens in late March. The project includes instruments made out of recycled metal materials by an east coast artist; pour-in - place rubberized fall surfacing installed in a pond and "nest" theme; foot activated pressure pads which create hundreds of different digital sounds you might hear in a prehistoric jungle; a steel pan instrument set in a sculptured foam "rock"; recycled plastic decking; a new seating area; and new pathways that are fully wheelchair accessible. The project was made possible by a grant from the California Integrated Waste Management Board, grant money from the California Land and Water Conservation Board and public donations. The Parks and Recreation Department extends much gratitude to Central Building Maintenance for all of their cooperation, creative talent and support before and during construction. (P & R)

### **WORKNET CAREER CONFERENCE**

Supervising Librarian Tom Hindman participated in at Career Conference at Work-Net last Friday. Nearly 50



teens and a dozen adults attended the briefing on library services. High school students from throughout the County attended the conference. (LIB)

### **MEETING WITH NEW RIPON COUNCILMEMBER**

Library Director Nicky Stanke and Ripon Branch Librarian Melinda Kopp met with newly-elected Ripon Councilmember Chuck Winn to share with him information about library services and issues. (LIB)

### **SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY BUDGET KICKOFF**

Library Director Nicky Stanke and Administrative Services Manager Diane Freggiaro attended a budget preparation meeting for San Joaquin County departments and agencies on Friday. County Administrator Manuel Lopez gave an overview of the County's financial situation and outlook for the coming year. (LIB)

### **TOUR FOR SUPERVISOR ORNELLAS**

Newly-elected County Supervisor Leroy Ornellas toured the Central Library on Thursday afternoon with his legislative assistant Scott Tyrell. Ornellas was recently elected to represent District 5 which includes Tracy, a part of Manteca, and Ripon. He was particularly interested in the operating arrangement between San Joaquin County and the City of Stockton. He offered his assistance with getting new facilities for his District. (LIB)

### **LIBRARY SUPERVISORS DISCUSS STAFF TIME STUDIES**

At the Library's monthly Administrative Council meeting, supervisors discussed the results of the one-week time studies completed by all library staff over the last couple of months. The studies consisted of a diary of

each 15-minutes of work time and subsequent analysis of that diary. Several supervisors intend to repeat the studies to gather additional and/or more representative data. The time studies will be used to help determine the best allocation of staff to meet the Library's service objectives. (LIB)

### **MARCH LANE UNDER- PASSES AT THE UNION PA- CIFIC RAILROADS**

Public Works was thrilled to learn this week that the March Lane Underpasses at the Union Pacific Railroads has won an American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Outstanding Civil Engineering Project Award. The project, managed by Public Works engineer Ray Deyto, was substantially completed in October of 2002. The project was designed by HDR Engineering, and constructed by Teichert Construction. Parsons Brinckerhoff provided the construction management services. The award will be presented at the Engineers Week Banquet in Sacramento on February 22, 2003.

### **BUDGET EDUCATION**

The City is taking a proactive step to educate the public about the Stockton's budget. March will begin a monthly service to explain just how the City's budget works. The project is called "Your Money Matters."

Each month the finance department will highlight a different aspect of the budget. That part of the budget will be broken down in graphs and charts.

"Your Money Matters" will be sent out in water and utility bills. It will also show up in local newspapers once a month in an effort to reach as many residents as possible.

Each new monthly insert will also be added to the City website for residents to get a complete view of the budget. It is hoped "Your Money Matters" will help residents understand

how Stockton is financed, and that misunderstandings will be cleared up.

A letter will be sent out in the March installment. It explains why the City is taking this proactive step. Here is a run-down for expected inserts.

March: A description of why we are educating the public. What the City's goal will be through this campaign? What the public will learn from this material.

April: Where does the money come from? How is the money spent?

May: Budget Facts: Why is there a budget problem? What are the financial uncertainties facing the City?

June: What services does the City provide? How much of each service is the total budget? How much does it cost per person?

July: What is the VLF and UUT and how does it affect Stockton?

August: How will the changes of the State budget affect Stockton?

September: Government budget acronyms. What do they mean?

October: Legislative Actions (like Proposition 13) and its impact on local cities. Why can't the City tighten its belt and do with less? A historical look at how we ended up at this point.

\*\*\*\*Each month will contain pie charts, graphs or pictures to aid in explaining the City budget and expenditures. Due to limited spaces on the inserts and in newspapers on residents will only get highlights. We are placing a more in-depth look at the budget on the stockton.gov website.

Due to state mandated inserts in the utility and water bills, these insert will lag behind the newspaper advertising. That should not matter in the educational process.

The rundown stops in October. It is hoped that this project will also generate questions from the public about the City's finances. Those questions would be answered in the following months.

With legislators in Sacramento balancing the budget on the backs to cities, Stockton wanted to show its residents where there money is going and how they can expect it to be used. (CM)

#### **CITY MANAGER'S MEETINGS AND PRESENTATIONS**

On Tuesday I participated in the City Council Goal Setting Session at the Commanding Officer's House.

I attended the League of California Cities City Managers Department Meeting in Monterey on February 12-14.

**HAVE A GOOD WEEKEND!**

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**MARK LEWIS  
CITY MANAGER**